

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8373

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR WEISS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: BAHAMIAN VIEWS ON ISRAELI COMMANDO RAID

1. WHEN FOLLOWING THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION OF 1842, MILLARD FILLMORE WAS AWAKENED BY HIS SERVANT WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT, "I HAVE THE HONOR TO TELL YOU THAT YOU HAVE BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT, AS RIDICULOUS AS THAT MAY SEEM," FILLMORE MAY WELL HAVE REACTED AS YOU MIGHT WHEN I SUGGEST THAT BAHAMIAN VIEWS ON THE RECENT ISRAELI COMMANDO RAID MAY BE OF INTEREST AS YOU CONSIDER FORMULATING U.S. POLICY IN ANTICIPATION OF A POSSIBLE UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT.

2. NORMALLY, I WOULD NOT THINK OF BURDENING YOU WITH THE VIEWS OF THIS VERY SMALL REPUBLIC WHICH OBVIOUSLY CARRIES LITTLE WEIGHT IN WORLD COUNCILS. THAT I NEVER-THELESS DO SO IS AN INDICATION THAT I THINK YOU MAY FIND SOMETHING OF UNUSUAL INTEREST IN THE REACTION OF THIS SMALL, BLACK RULED NATION LIVING ON OUR DOORSTEP. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WHILE FRIENDLY TO THE U.S. THE BAHAMAS HAS BEEN TRYING TO CARVE OUT A SOMEWHAT

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MORE NON-ALIGNED POSTURE, AT LEAST IN APPEARANCE IF NOT

REALITY. FOR EXAMPLE, IT HAS HOSTED SEVERAL BLACK AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE IN THE PAST YEAR AND PRIME MINISTER PINDLING HAS SPOKEN OUT IN CRITICAL TERMS CONCERNING U.S. POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA. (HE WAS, HOWEVER, MOST FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR KAMPALA SPEECH.) IN ANY EVENT, I WAS INTERESTED IN SEEING HOW PINDLING REACTED TO THE RECENT ISRAELI RAID.

3. AT A SOCIAL EVENT ON SUNDAY, I WAS SEATED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND ASKED HIS REACTION. HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A SEVERAL DAY TRIP TO THE OUT ISLANDS AND HAD NOT HEARD OF THE ISRAELI ACTION. I DESCRIBED WHAT HAD BEEN BROADCAST ON THE NEWS. PINDLING WAS OBVIOUSLY SURPRISED BUT, SOMEWHAT TO MY OWN SURPRISE, REACTED WITH UNDISGUISED ADMIRATION AND APPROBATION. HE SAID "IT WAS ABOUT TIME SOMEONE TOOK SUCH AN ACTION." WHEN I REMARKED THAT AMIN WAS FUMING, HE SAID "OF COURSE, WHAT ELSE COULD ONE EXPECT FROM AMIN?"

4. PINDLING'S REACTION IS ONE WHICH I SENSE IS GENERALLY SHARED. THESE ARE DECENT PEOPLE OUTRAGED BY THE ACTS OF TERRORISTS AND THEY SUFFER A FRUSTRATION, ONCE REMOVED, ABOUT THE APPARENT INABILITY OF THE "GOOD GUYS" TO REACT.

5. IF THIS IS AT ALL GERMANE TO THE FORMULATION OF OUR UN SECURITY COUNCIL POSITION, IT IS THAT WE WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHED TO SEE HOW WE REACT. IF WE REACT TIMIDLY IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO BALANCE OUR POSITION SO AS TO AVOID GIVING OFFENSE TO THE AFRICANS OR THE ARABS, WE WILL DISAPPOINT THOSE WHO LOOK TO US FOR STAUNCH LEADERSHIP IN SUCH MATTERS. CONVERSELY, IF OUR POSITION FOLLOWS UP THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ISRAELIS WITH AN INDICATION THAT WE OURSELVES WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE TERRORISTS BEING ACCORDED SANCTUARIES THUS PERMITTING THESE VILE INTERNATIONAL OUTLAWS THE PROTECTION OF THE AMINS AND QUADAFFIS OF THIS WORLD, I BELIEVE WE SHALL BE APPLAUDED FOR OUR STAND. AND INDEED, EVEN IF WE ARE NOT, A CASE COULD WELL BE MADE THAT THE TIME IS LONG OVERDUE FOR US TO ADOPT PRECISELY SUCH A POSTURE.

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